

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 44

Fall Update # 8, Yukon Area Salmon Fishery

Districts Affected: Yukon Area

Fall Season Assessment

The projected 2013 fall chum salmon run size based on inseason assessment ranges between 900,000 and 1,000,000 fish. Six pulses of fall chum salmon entered Yukon River this season. The fourth and fifth pulses were the largest in abundance and entered Yukon River between August 12 and August 20. The estimated number of fish in those pulses combined was 462,000. No additional pulses of fall chum salmon have been detected by the Lower Yukon River test fisheries since the end of August.

Coho salmon have entered Yukon River in low numbers and Pilot Station sonar estimates have been below average the entire season. The preliminary Pilot Station sonar estimate of coho salmon in 2013 was the second lowest passage on record.

Lower Yukon River Cooperative Drift Test Fishing – YDFDA, ADF&G

ADF&G ceased conducting the test fish drifts after August 28 however, YDFDA is continuing the project through September 20. The cumulative CPUE for fall chum salmon through September 15 was 2,473.97, which is above the historical median of 1,199.70 for that date. The cumulative CPUE through September 15 for coho salmon was 319.02, which is below the historical median of 388.31 for that date.

Pilot Station Sonar Project - ADF&G

Pilot Station sonar project ceased operations for the season on September 7. The cumulative fall chum salmon passage through September 7 is approximately 711,105 fish, which is above the median passage of 604,594 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon passage through September 7 is approximately 84,405 fish, which is below the median passage of 133,745 fish for that date.

Rapids Test Fish Wheel Project - Zuray

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 15 is approximately 28,310 fish, which is above the historical median of 22,499 fish for that date. The cumulative based on the adjusted water level is above the historical median for that date.

Chandalar Sonar Project - USFWS

The cumulative passage attributed to fall chum salmon through September 15 is approximately 133,761 fish, which is below the historical median of 136,925 fish for that date. Fall chum passage has exceeded the lower end of the biological escapement goal of 74,000-152,000 fall chum salmon.

Eagle Sonar Project - ADF&G

The cumulative passage attributed to fall chum salmon from August 19 through September 15 is 38,268 fish, which is below the average of 51,433 fish for that date. The first quarter-point is September 15 at this site based on average run timing.

Manley Test Fish Wheel-ADF&G

The cumulative fall chum salmon CPUE through September 15 is approximately 9,879 fish, which is above the historical average of 8,170 fish for that date. The cumulative coho salmon CPUE through September 15 is approximately 1,218 fish, which is above the historical average of 1,080 fish for that date.

Stock Composition

Fall chum salmon genetic samples obtained from the Pilot Station sonar test fish program between August 23 and September 7 indicate the following approximate stock composition: 70%, 11%, and 16% Tanana, Border/US (Chandalar/Sheenjek), and Canada respectively. Summer chum salmon made up approximately 3% of the fish sampled during that time period. Fall chum salmon genetic samples processed from July 19 through September 7 indicate that stocks represented approximately 10% summer, 24% Border/US, 32% Canadian, and 34% Tanana.

Fall Season Management

In accordance with the Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management Plan, a total run ranging from 900,000 to 1,000,000 fish is adequate for escapement needs, full subsistence opportunity, and has a surplus available for other uses. Subsistence fishing is now on the full regulatory schedules in the Yukon River drainage (see subsistence schedule below).

The salmon commercial fishing season in Districts 1 and 2 closed by regulation after September 10. Commercial salmon fishing is ongoing in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C and in District 6. Commercial opportunity in District 6 is dependent on fall chum and coho salmon inseason run assessment of Tanana River stocks.

Fall Commercial Salmon Fishing

Through September 15, eleven fall commercial fishing periods have been announced in District Y-1 and eleven periods in District Y-2. Six commercial periods have been scheduled in Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C. Ten commercial fishing periods have been scheduled in District 6.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-1:

Period #11: District Y-1 Set Net Only Area, 6 hours (5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. August 29), remainder of District Y-1, 6 hours (1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. August 29). Preliminary verbals indicate a harvest of 2,993 fall chum salmon and 2,113 coho salmon.

The cumulative harvest for Y-1 through September 15 is 106,443 fall chum and 27,278 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 14 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for District Y-2:

Period #11: District Y-2, 5 hours (2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. August 31). Preliminary verbals indicate a harvest of 2,423 fall chum salmon and 1,895 coho salmon.

The cumulative harvest for Y-2 through September 15 is 106,274 fall chum and 31,456 coho salmon, and the incidental harvest (not sold) of Chinook salmon is 29 fish.

Preliminary harvest information for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C:

Period #6: Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C, 5-day period (6:00 p.m. Tuesday September 17 until 6:00 p.m. Sunday September 22). There are currently no buyers present in these subdistricts.

The cumulative harvest for Subdistricts 5-B and 5-C through September 15 is 1,041 fall chum salmon.

Preliminary harvest information for District 6:

Period #10: District 6, 42 hour period (6:00 p.m. Monday September 16 until 12:00 noon Wednesday September 18). Currently there is no harvest to report.

The cumulative harvest for District 6 through September 15 is 1,749 fall chum and 48 coho salmon.

Processors, catcher-sellers, or direct marketers should notify the department of their intent to operate in any of the districts and subdistricts to request an opening by contacting the Fairbanks office at (907) 459-7274.

Subsistence Salmon Fishing

For the current subsistence schedule please call **(toll free): 1-866-479-7387 or in Fairbanks call (907) 459-7387**. The current subsistence fishing schedules are as follows:

Coastal District: The Coastal District is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Districts 1, 2, 3: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

The Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 4-A (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistrict 4-A is currently open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Use of drift gillnets to harvest fall chum salmon is allowed in that portion of Subdistrict 4-A from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point during open subsistence fishing

periods.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day.

In District 4, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing in the Koyukuk River is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day and fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B and 5-C (from Illinois Creek upstream to regulatory markers 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Tanana, Rampart and the Haul Road Bridge area. Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C are open 5 days per week for subsistence salmon fishing. The subsistence salmon fishing schedule is from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Sundays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Subdistrict 5-D (from an ADF&G regulatory marker 2 miles downstream of Waldron Creek upstream on the Yukon River to U.S./Canada Border and including all adjacent tributaries): This area includes the communities of Stevens Village, Beaver, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Chalkyitsik, Circle, and Eagle. Subsistence salmon fishing is open 24-hours per day, 7 days per week. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less and all salmon may be kept when caught in fish wheels.

Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B (from the mouth of the Tanana River upstream to the regulatory marker at the mouth of Wood River): This area includes the communities of Manley, Minto, and Nenana. Subsistence salmon fishing is open for two 42-hour periods per week from 6:00 pm Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays and from 6:00 pm Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays.

Old Minto Area (upstream of Tolovana River mouth to upstream of Totchaket Slough see regulations for area): This area includes the community of Old Minto. Subsistence fishing for salmon is open for one five day fishing period per week from 6:00pm Fridays until 6:00pm Wednesdays. Fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller.

Subdistrict 6-C (from regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River): This area includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Personal Use salmon fishing in Subdistrict 6-C is open from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays. Fisherman may use a mesh size of 7.5 inches or less.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call (907) 459-7387. The Emmonak ADF&G office and LYTF recording line are now closed for the season. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks office at 459-7274.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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